Guidelines for Community Radio Stations

1273. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that his Ministry proposed that the community radio stations be allowed to generate their own revenue through advertisements and sponsored programmes;

(b) whether it is also fact that the Government are contradicting this proposal and send the same to the Group of Ministers to study the whole thing; and

(c) the changes proposed by the Ministry in the guidelines for Community Radio Stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration by a Group of Ministers.

Neglect of entertainment

†1274. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that basic entertainment has been almost nil despite more than hundred channels for broadcasting through satellite T.V. competitiveness in advertising, sports casting and increase in number of unrealistic serials for common man;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the arrangements being made to provide basic entertainment to the viewers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) There are more than 200 TV Channels available over the Indian skies. In respect of private TV channels the Government does not have a role to play in their programming content, except for insisting on adherence to the Programme and Advertisement Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995. Prasar Bharati, the public service broadcaster, through Doordarshan

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and AIR provides not only entertainment to a majority of the country but also provides information and education. Doordarshan operates 27 channels-5 All India Channels, 11 Regional Language Satellite Channels and 8 Hindi Belt Kendras, 1 International Channel and 2 Parliament Channels (DD-Lok Sabha and DD-Rajya Sabha). Except for the Hindi belt Kendras (DD-14 to DD-17 and DD-19 to DD-22) all other DD channels broadcast round the clock.

The flagship of Doordarshan i.e. DD-1 National, covering 79 percent of the land area and 90.7% population of the country has a mix of programmes on information, education and entertainment on its channel. Besides this DD-Bharati is an edutainment channel focusing primarily on health, art, culture and music. DD Sports, round the clock satellite channel caters to the sports loving viewers of the country. Doordarshan has recently launched direct to home service under the name "DD Direct +" which comprises 19 Doordarshan and 14 private TV channels besides 12 All India Radio channels.

Audience response at Children's Film Festival

1275. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had held the Children's Film Festival recently at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether Government had received immense response from the audience;

(c) if so, the details threof;

(d) the expenditure incurreed for this purpose;

(e) whether Government have any proposal to make Hyderabad a permanent venue for the purpose;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The 14th International Children's Film Festival was held at Hyderabad between 14th to 20th November, 2005.